



STATE OF WASHINGTON
WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
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March 14, 2001

TO: Washington State Board of Health Members
FROM: Doreen Garcia, Senior Health Policy Advisor
RE: Status of Review Regarding Regulatory Standards for Auditory and Visual Screenings in Schools

Background and Summary

On May 10, 1999, the Washington State Board of Health filed a CR-101 announcing its intention to review WAC 246-760: Auditory and Visual Standards-School Districts. As part of the rule review process, the Department of Health (DOH) and Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) began review of the WAC at that time. DOH and OSPI conducted a literature review, compiled policies and procedures from professional organizations, and reviewed the United States Preventive Services Task Force Guidelines to assess appropriate policy for auditory and visual screening in public schools.

At the January 2000 Board meeting, the Board directed Board staff to work with DOH and OSPI to analyze the need for and timing of auditory and visual screening in the context of children's access to clinical preventive services. Since then DOH and OSPI initiated a study of the number and results of visual and auditory screenings students have received at each grade level. They are in the process of surveying schools and will be analyzing that information this spring. Based on the results of the study, information will be made available to stakeholders and other interested parties to assist the Board in review of the rule.

The review of this rule is due by December 31, 2001.

Recommended Board Action:

No Action Proposed.